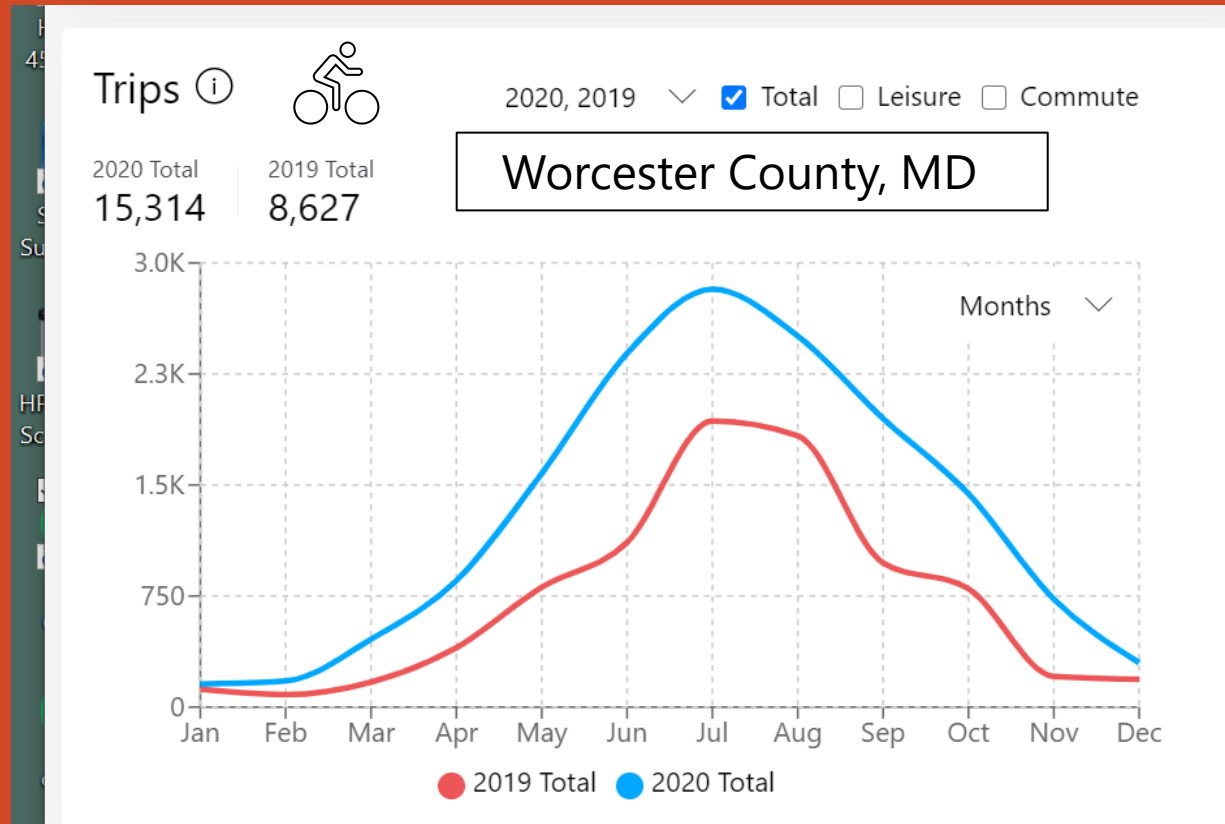


EASTERN SHORE REGION

Patti Stevens — patti59.stevens@gmail.com

Worcester County Bike & Pedestrian Coalition



9 Counties - 170 mi x 80 mi
CECIL – 102,552 population

KENT – 19,536

QUEEN ANNE'S - 49,632

CAROLINE - 33,049

TALBOT - 37,167

DORCHESTER - 32,138

WICOMICO – 102,539

SOMERSET - 25,729

WORCESTER - 51,765

*Summer peak population of
Ocean City is 350,000!*

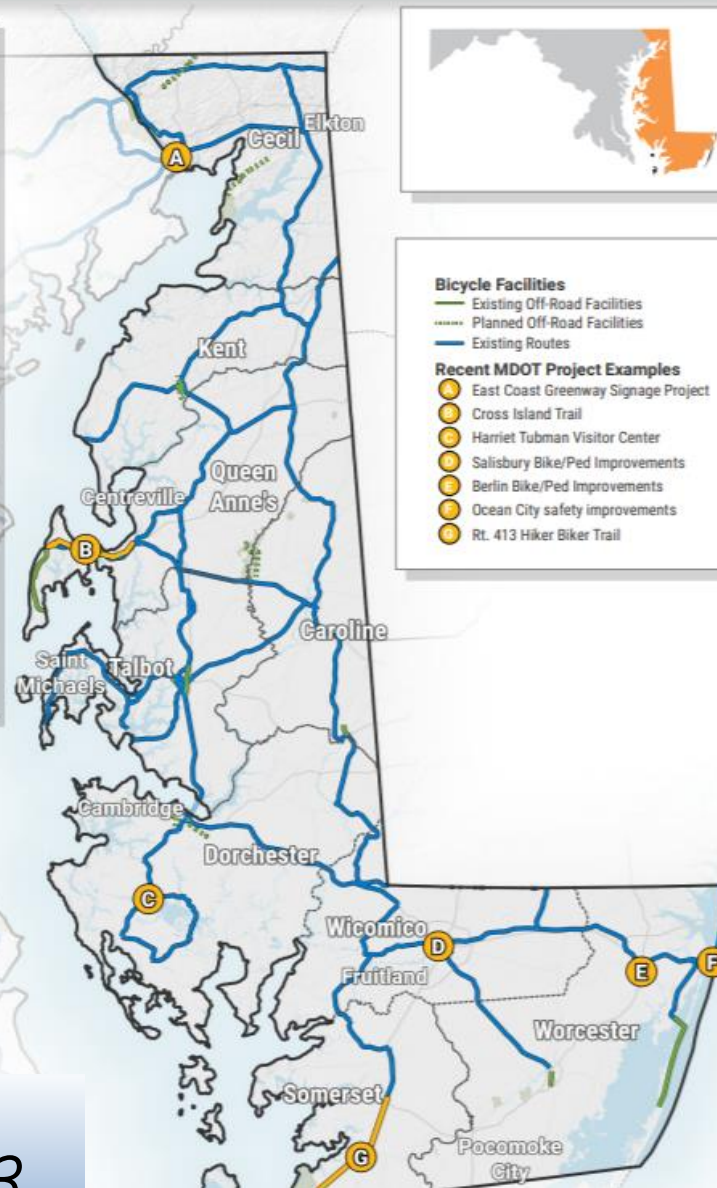
Sample Assets and Resources

Planning Resources:

- Wilmington Area Planning Council Non-motorized Working Group (WILMAPCO)
- Bike Salisbury (Bike SBY)
- Salisbury-Wicomico Metropolitan Planning Organization (S/WMPO)
- Tri-County Council for the Lower Eastern Shore
- Local Bike/Ped Plans: Salisbury, Berlin, Cecil County, Perryville, Charles County
- Walking Plan Assessments: Caroline/Dorchester, Somerset, Wicomico, and Worcester

Partners and Stakeholders:

- Stories of the Chesapeake Heritage Area
- Heart of Chesapeake Country Heritage Area
- Lower Eastern Shore Heritage Area
- Lower Susquehanna Heritage Greenway
- Eastern Shore Land Conservancy (ESLC) and Lower Shore Land Trust



The Eastern Shore of Maryland is rich in attractive destinations and scenery that benefit from an emphasis on active tourism and desirable amenities to attract and protect cyclists and pedestrians. The relatively even topography and the wide range of natural and heritage resources create a strong basis for continued strategic investment in trail connectivity, sidewalks, and main streets.

Trends

- 10%** population growth 2010-2016
- 2.7%** commute by bike/walk
- 7%** Households with no access to vehicle

U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey 2017

In addition to the safety initiatives in Ocean City (see Illustrative Project on page 28), recent programs are devoted to extending the trail network. An ongoing initiative was launched in Somerset County in 2018. While momentum and attention to biking and walking access is growing in some key towns (Salisbury and Berlin, for example), plans and planning resources to strategically improve biking and walking are limited at the county level.

Eastern Shore Pedestrian & Bicyclist Fatalities and Injuries, per 10,000 Population



MBPAC : Queen Anne's County Concerns

Presenter:

Bob Zillig – Queen Anne's County BPAC

Date: January 22, 2021

Recently completed
Cross Island Trail
Connector adjacent
to Rt 50/301



QAC BPAC team serves as advisory committee for the county

- Team Link [Click to Link to BPAC Team site](#)
- Meet Quarterly . . . Seven Members
- Key Deliverable – Annual Safety & Connectivity Recommendations

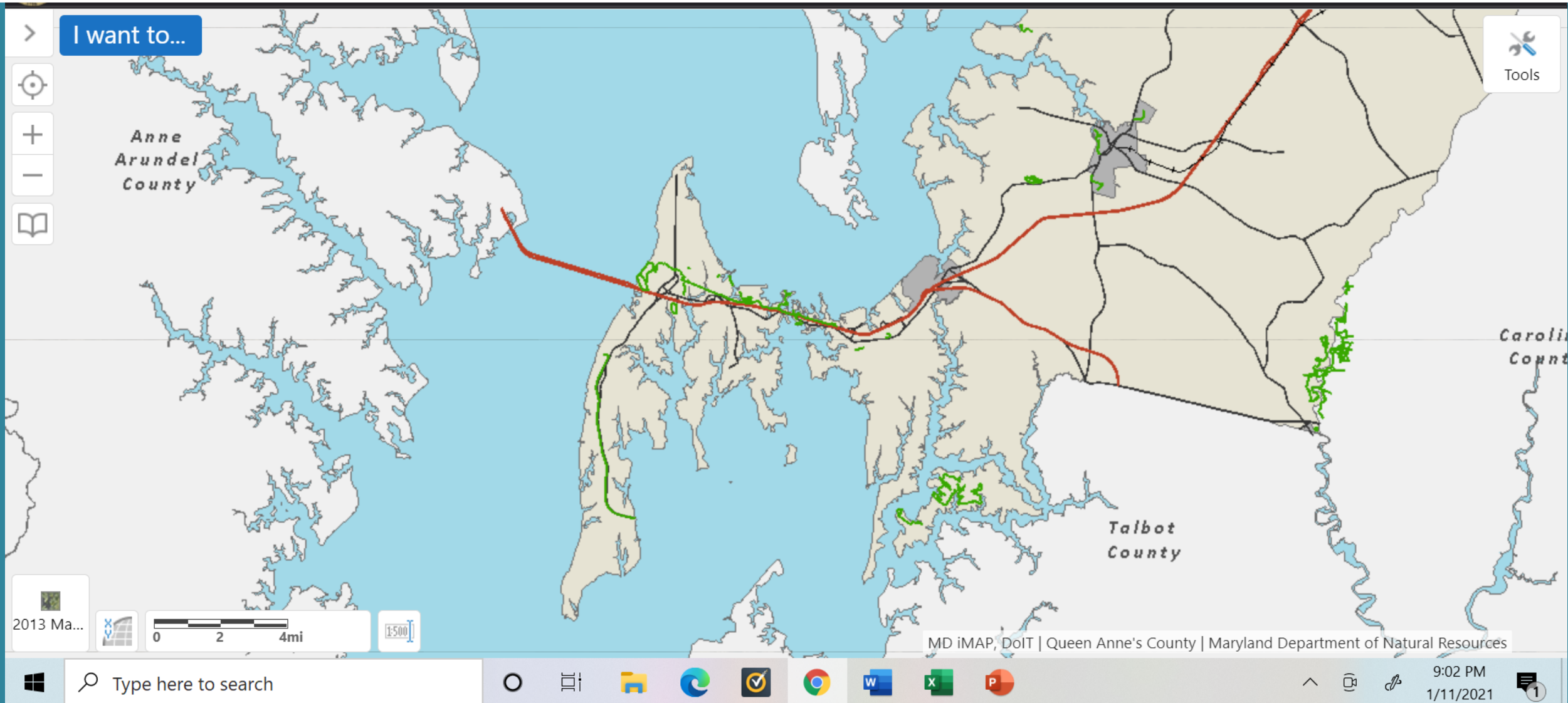
[Click to Link to 2020 Safety and Connectivity Recommendations](#)

- Key Resource – County's Pedestrian Connectivity MAP

[Click to Link to Connectivity Map](#)

Also, advocacy group “Friends of Queen Anne’s County Trails” is on Facebook with 200 members

QAC biggest BPAC challenge is geography



Kent IslandGateway to the Eastern shore is an Island.

32 Square miles 20 K Population 8.6 K Household HU 1.3% Proj. Growth (2X 10 yr trend)

Cut in Half by Rt 50 "Reach the Beach" freeway initiative

North of Rt 50

Medical Center
Industrial Park

High School w/Athletic fields
Professional offices

Public Library
Four Seasons Expansion

Primary Trail: Cross Island Trail (6 miles)

South of Rt 50

Commuter Lot at Rt 8/Rt 50

Retail Shopping/Commercial Centers along Rt 50/301

Grocery stores

Hardware Stores

Mass Merch

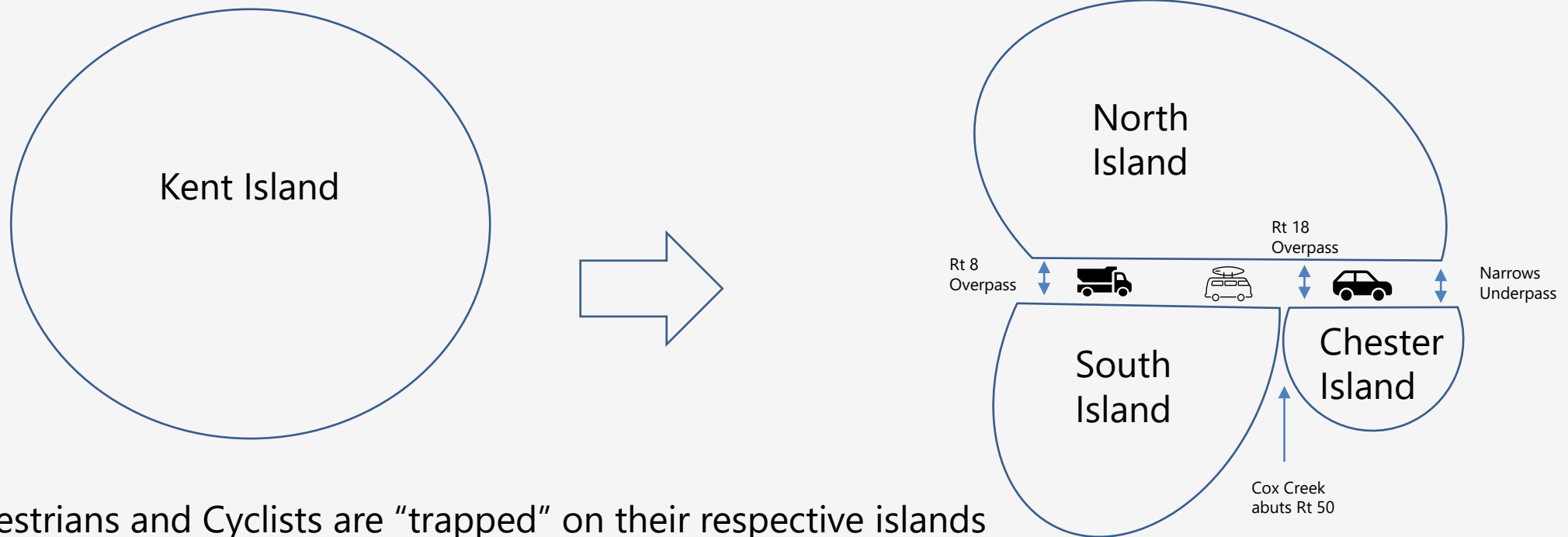
Target (coming soon!!)

Fast Food

Strip Malls

Primary Trail: South Trail (6 miles)


Rt 50 turned one island into three . . . with three “bridges” connecting



Pedestrians and Cyclists are “trapped” on their respective islands

- Overpasses have no designated pedestrian or cyclist lanes
- Only the Kent Narrows Underpass allows safe passage
- South Island has no East west passage due to Cox Creek abutting Rt 50

Asking for help to “stitch the island back together” for Pedestrians & Cyclists

1. Make Pedestrian and cyclist lanes on Overpasses a priority
2. Connect two primary trail systems via Rt 8 - requires crossing Rt. 8 at safe location
 - Cross Island Trail (North side)
 - South Trail (South Side) Resulting Trail would be 15 miles
3. Long term - address Cox Creek issue blocking east / west movement by building trail along Rt 50, utilizing right of way at creek crossing

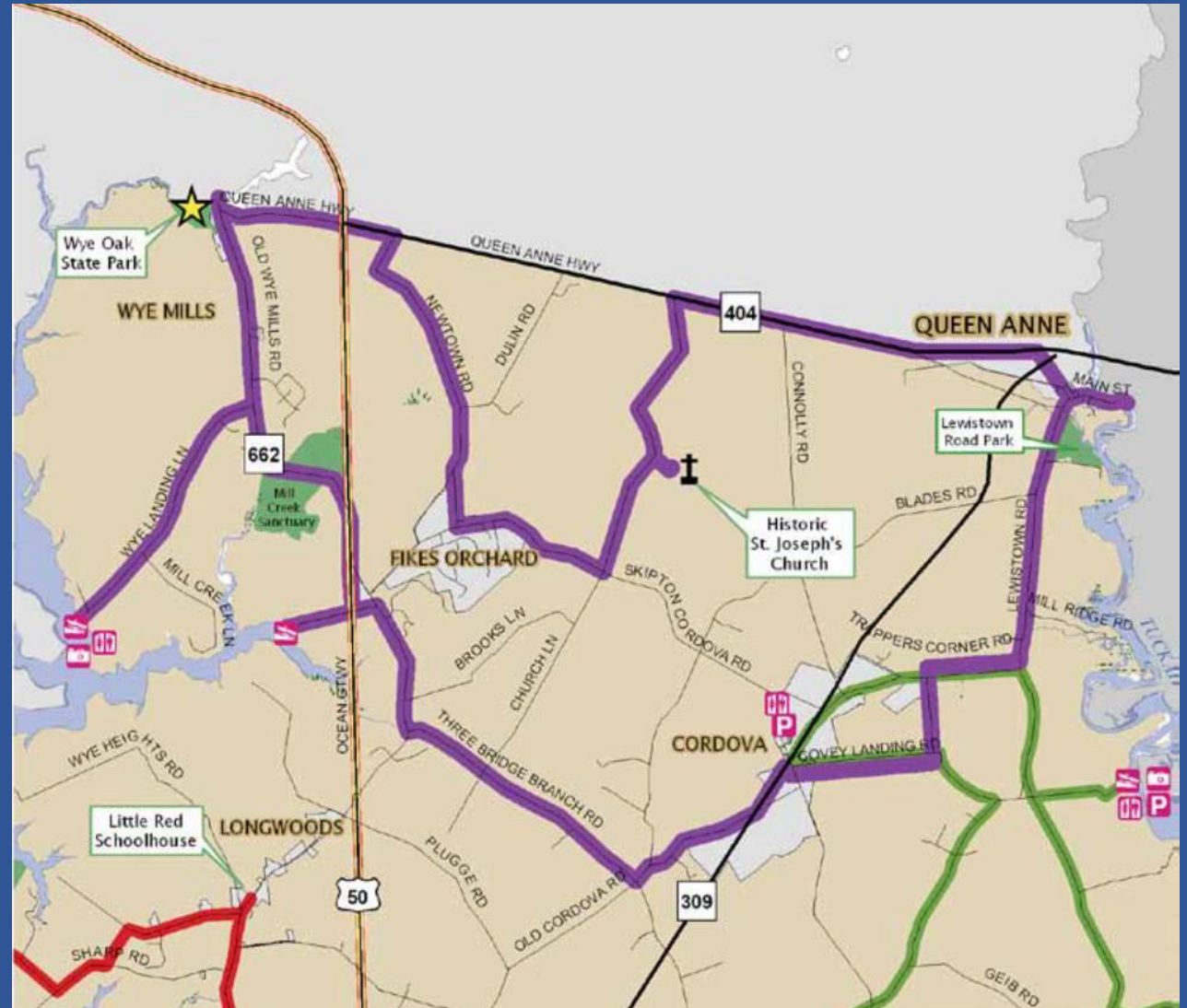
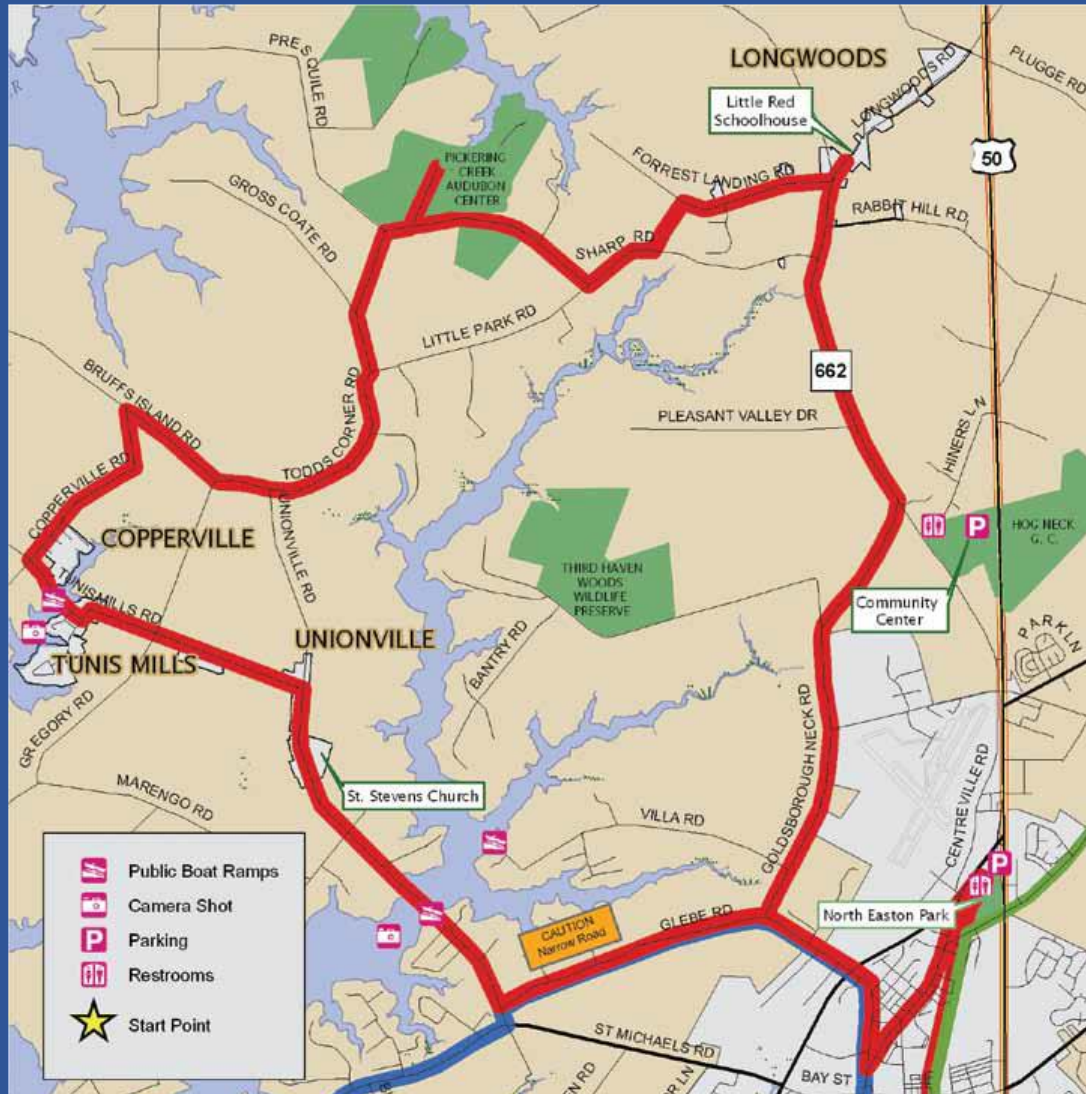


Bill Boicourt- Planning Commissioner
boicourt@umces.edu
Carol Kachadoorian, Consultant
carol@dbltildecollaborative.com

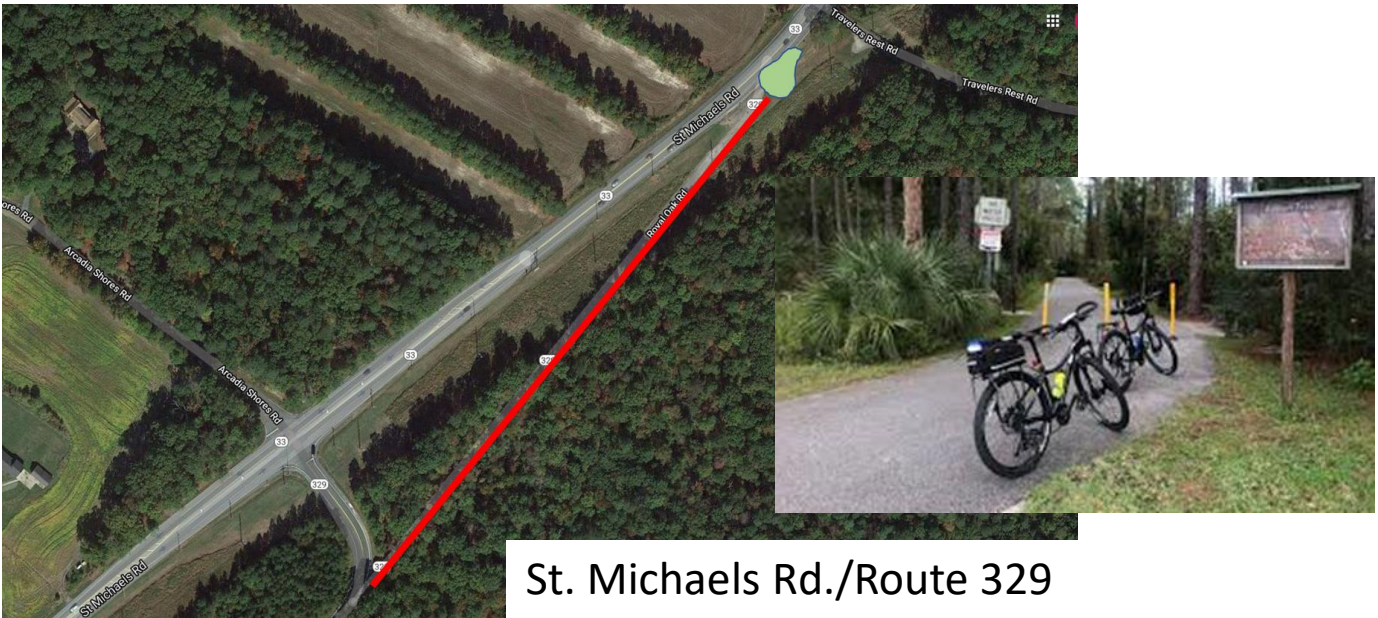
- Great rural cycling, but routes restricted by coastal geography and highways
- Immediate, low-cost solutions proposed to ameliorate high-speed traffic issues at pinch points and to expand trail connectivity, especially between Easton and St. Michaels
- Connectivity opportunities: Easton Trail extensions, Frederick Douglas Rail Trail, Frederick Douglass Park, Cordova Rail Trail
- Inter-jurisdictional and public/private cooperation required. Cultural and Agricultural Impediments
- <https://tourtalbot.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/09/TCOT-Bike-Trails.pdf>

MBPAC - Help with acquiring economic impact and safety data & benefits of active transportation for under-served communities.

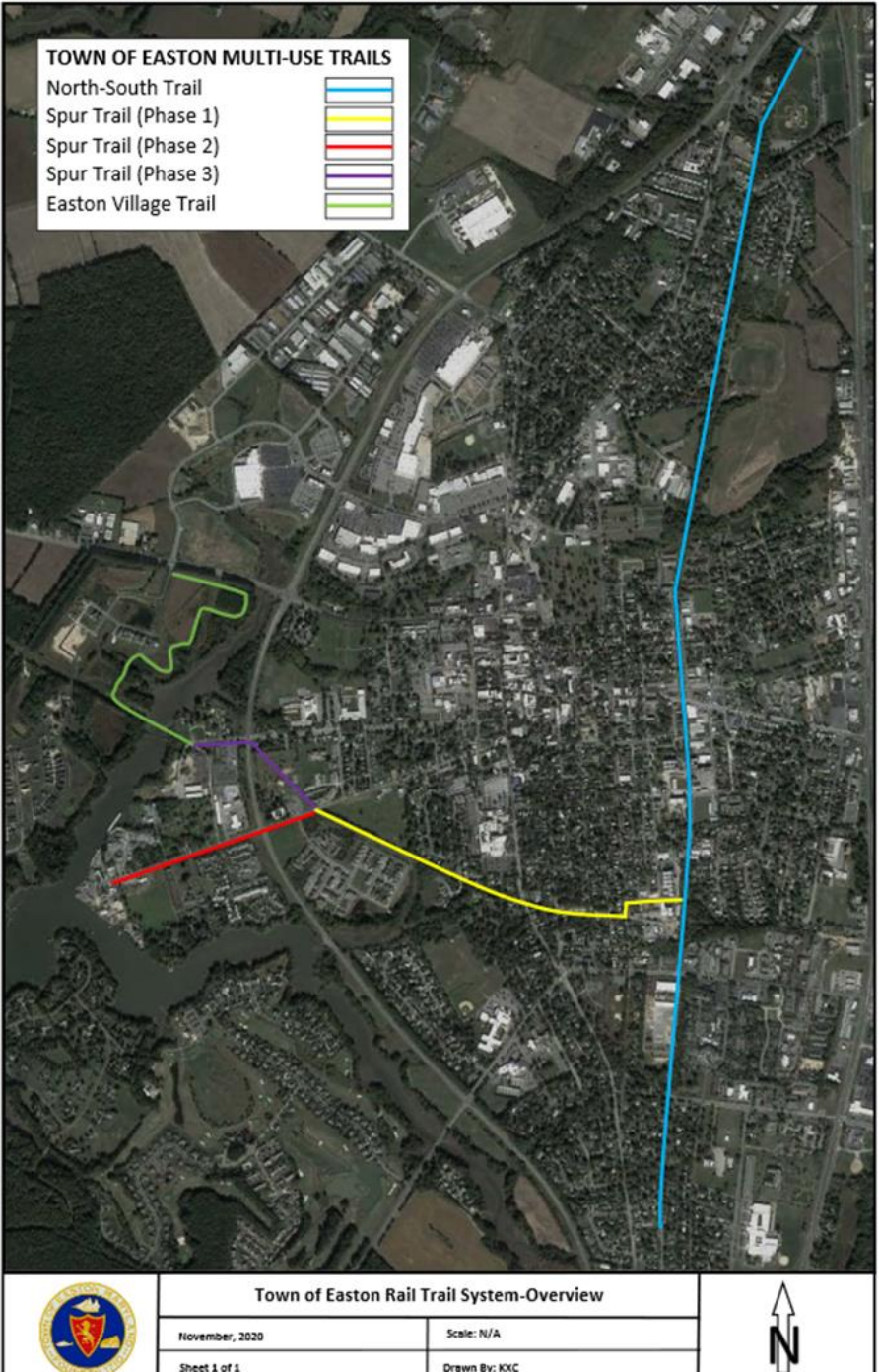
Common Issues and opportunities



Solutions and Opportunities



--C. Kachadoorian



Somerset County

Clint Sterling, Director of Recreation, Parks, & Tourism
csterling@somersetmd.us



Biking and Pedestrian activity in Somerset:

- Nearing completion of 4.7 mile bike/walk trail connecting Crisfield/Marion. 10 ft wide asphalt path. Already getting heavy usage.
- Grant approval through TAP/Bikeways for the second phase of this project will begin in Westover recreation facility.
- Resurfacing of ½ walking/exercise trail in Westover
- Continued promotion of our recreational initiative, Somerset County's Original Trail Mix with mobile app:
www.somersettrailmix.com
- A dedicated crosswalk with signals was added at the intersection of rt13 and Mt. Vernon Rd in Princess Anne.
- Multi-agency and levels of government support was critical. Sold trail on health, tourism, and environmental impacts.

MBPAC /MDOT can help convene conversations and planning with trailways and state rail planners.
Help with cross-state promotion of new trails and bikeways and event.



Owen Bailey
Town Projects Manager
obailey@eslc.org
www.eslc.org

Mission:

- Increase access to parks, open space, and community service
- Make streets safer for pedestrians and cyclists
- Connect communities with resources and ideas



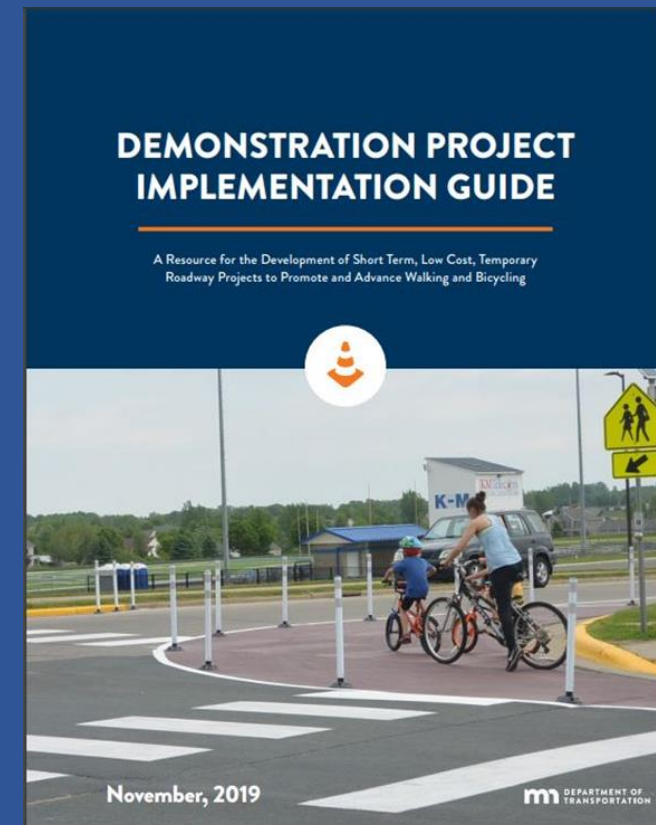
Photo Credit: Carol Kachadoorian - Seattle

Demonstration Projects

A Demonstration Project is a tool that towns (both residents and elected officials) can use to promote creative solutions to make our communities more walkable and livable by installing temporary pedestrian safe infrastructure that can be tested for its effectiveness before being scaled up and made permanent.

Demonstration projects are:

- Partnership with local government and residents
- Inexpensive and adaptable
- Short-term solutions for long-term problems
- Tools adopted by other jurisdiction and States
 - Minnesota Department of Transportation





Chestertown Main Street



Chestertown Farmers Market

Challenges



Photo Credit: Brampton Inn



Moving Forward – Work with MBPAC to:

- Convene regional workshop on bike and pedestrian issues for planning commissions, elected officials, and staff.
- Create regional trail network between and in Eastern Shore towns.
- Tie to state-wide trail plan.



Other Eastern Shore Counties

CECIL COUNTY – part of Lower Susquehanna Heritage Greenway
www.upperbaytrails.com/maps.html

CAROLINE COUNTY -
visitcaroline.org/listings/cycling-in-caroline/

DORCHESTER COUNTY – Hosts IRONMAN in Cambridge
<https://visitdorchester.org/dorchester-cycling-guide/>

WICOMICO COUNTY – Salisbury BPAC
<https://www.facebook.com/SalisburyBPAC/>

WORCESTER COUNTY - Ocean City BPAC
<https://oceancitymd.gov/oc/bpac-bike-maps/>

